

CALIFORNIA **TRUTH & HEALING** **COUNCIL**

OVERVIEW



WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA TRUTH & HEALING COUNCIL?

The California Truth & Healing Council (Council) is a council created by Governor Gavin Newsom via Executive Order made up of representatives from California Native American tribes, but can also include relevant state and local agencies, and other relevant non-governmental stakeholders.

- The Council is led and convened by the Governor's Tribal Advisor and is limited-term, disbanding upon issuance of its final written report on January 1, 2025.



WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL DO?

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order, the Council is charged with bearing witness to, recording, examining existing documentation of, and receiving California Native American narratives regarding the historical relationship between the State of California and California Native Americans in order to clarify the historical record of such relationship in the spirit of truth and healing.



WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL DO?

The Council is also required to report annually and submit a final written report of findings to the Office of the Tribal Advisor by January 1, 2025.

- The final report aims to reflect a holistic understanding of the historical relationship between California Native Americans and the State and will be modeled on similar truth and reconciliation documents examining relations between national/subnational governments and indigenous populations using an international human rights framework.



WILL THE COUNCIL EXAMINE REPARATIONS?

Yes. Pursuant to the Charter, the Council may examine and make recommendations aimed at reparation and restoration and consider how to prevent similar depredations and/or policies in the future.

- The Charter and other materials are available at tribalaffairs.ca.gov/cthc/resources.



COUNCIL STRUCTURE

The Council is organized under a Charter and is made up of Voting Members and Non-Voting Members. There are twelve (12) Voting Members, all of which must be representatives of California Native American Tribes.



COUNCIL STRUCTURE: VOTING MEMBERS

Of the twelve (12) Voting Members, three (3) Members each must be from the Southern, Central, Northern and Eastern geographical areas of the State and for each of these areas, one (1) of the three (3) appointed Voting Members needs to be from a non-federally recognized California Native American tribe on the list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.



COUNCIL STRUCTURE: VOTING MEMBERS

Membership as a Voting Member is available to **duly elected officials or appointed designees** of California Native American tribes on the list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission.

- Voting Members of the Council will be compensated with a per diem and will also have their reasonable travel expenses covered for quarterly meetings. This is to acknowledge their unique experiences, knowledges, and backgrounds.



COUNCIL STRUCTURE: NON-VOTING MEMBERS

There are also Non-Voting Members on the Council, which can include, but would not be limited to, representatives from state and local agencies, academics and community leaders. There is currently no cap on the number of Non-Voting Members.

- The Voting Members of the Council will discuss the process and parameters around Non-Voting Members at its first meeting in December.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Council welcomes and encourages all available methods for public participation. Participants can:

- Attend and observe all meetings of the Council, with the exception of any closed session proceedings;
- Submit written statements to the Council;
- Make oral statements and testimony to the Council;
- Participate in interactive dialogues, panel discussions and informal meetings; and
- Organize and host “affiliate events” on issues relevant to the work of the Council.

In addition, the Council may convene subcommittees to look at discrete areas of work, which are generally open to all participants.



COUNCIL STRUCTURE

VOTING MEMBERS

Tribal Elected Officials or Duly Authorized Representatives

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Academics, Tribal & Community Representatives, State Agencies

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & AFFILIATED EVENTS

California Native Americans, Members of the Public, Academics & NGOs



WHY THIS STRUCTURE?

This structure was adopted based on tribal consultation responses and extensive review of similar international mechanisms.

- Because the Truth and Healing Council will be the first entity of its kind in United States tasked with such an expansive and broad-based undertaking; it is critical that California tribal governments and the broader California Native American population drive the work of the Council while offering broad access—and opportunities to support and amplify the work—to all Californians.



TRIBAL CONSULTATION

If you are a California Native American tribe, the Tribal Advisor will arrange for a time to consult with your tribe before January 1, 2024 to record, gather existing documentation of, and receive narratives regarding the historical relationship between the State of California and California Native Americans. You can request consultation at tribalaffairs.ca.gov/cthc/consultation.

- While the Tribal Advisor will endeavor to meet California Native American tribes in the locations of their preference, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, consultations will take place virtually until conditions allow for in-person meetings.



CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICANS

The Council welcomes and encourages the participation of all California Native Americans, regardless of enrollment status.

The historical depredations under examination of the Council are part of the collective experience of peoples of California Native American descent and their impacts are not limited to citizenship status.

- California Native Americans may submit documentation, testimonials and/or information to info.tribalaffairs@gov.ca.gov and may reach out to that email to set up a meeting with the Office of the Tribal Advisor.
- California Native Americans may also fully participate in and submit documentation, testimonials and/or information during the quarterly meetings of the Council.



MEMBERS OF ACADEMIA

Researchers, scholars and educators are encouraged to participate in the work of the Council, whether as Non-Voting Members or in a non-member supportive capacity.

- Academics may also submit research, documentation, testimonials and/or information to info.tribalaffairs@gov.ca.gov and may reach out to that email to set up a meeting with the Office of the Tribal Advisor.
- Academics may also fully participate in and submit documentation, testimonials and/or information during the quarterly meetings of the Council or serve on subcommittees of the Council.



NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Council encourages involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that could be helpful in providing support services, researching or amplifying the work of the Council.

- NGOs can host affiliate events, which may be publicized by the Council, in conjunction with quarterly meetings of the Council.
- NGOs may submit documentation, testimonials and/or information to info.tribalaffairs@gov.ca.gov and may reach out to that email to set up a meeting with the Office of the Tribal Advisor.
- NGOs may also fully participate in and submit documentation, testimonials and/or information during the quarterly meetings of the Council.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Council welcomes partnerships from organizations, agencies and individuals who can provide services related to the mission of the Council, including but not limited to:

- Research and scholarship;
- Documentary filmmaking;
- Emotional, community, and behavioral support; and
- Media and communications.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council will meet on a quarterly basis over two days in March, June, September and December.

- The Council is charged with performing its work with transparency, inclusion and respect for all experiences, viewpoints and backgrounds. The Council encourages all available methods for public participation.
- To provide and preserve public access to the primary materials for the final report and appendices, the Council will livestream, record, and transcribe meetings, and it will audio record and transcribe consultations. All materials will be available on the website of the Governor's Tribal Advisor.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Day One of the quarterly meetings of the Council will be a facilitated talking circle using the expertise of a culturally appropriate wellness practitioner, who will also be able to connect participants with tools to work through historical trauma and the work of the Council.
- Day Two of the quarterly meetings will be dedicated to a hearing-style presentation of historical findings, evidence, outcomes and experiences from day one, and resources as directed by the Council.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Over the course of each quarterly meeting, a culturally appropriate wellness practitioner will provide participants with tools to process and heal from ongoing and historical trauma.

- The Council is currently seeking community input on the selection of culturally appropriate wellness services—please submit feedback using the following Google Form: <https://forms.gle/jvcb9yAFhMYmbvHE7>



COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Council meetings will take place virtually and live-streamed until conditions allow for in-person participation.

- Once COVID-19 conditions alleviate, the Council will rotate its meeting locations in the four geographical areas throughout the State.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- The Office of the Tribal Advisor is accepting nominations for a Voting Member of the Council from a non-federally recognized tribe from the Southern Region (San Diego / Imperial) until Friday, February 26, 2021 at 11:59pm Pacific time.
- The next meeting of the Council will take place February 26 via zoom and livestream from 12pm-3pm. Meetings are recorded.



THANK YOU

More information on the Council, including materials and tentative meeting dates, is available at tribalaffairs.ca.gov/cthc.

To contact my office with any follow up comments, questions or concerns, please email the Office of the Tribal Advisor at info.tribalaffairs@gov.ca.gov.

